GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:440
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2002
EXPANSION OF POWERS OF P.C.I.
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the functioning and enhance the powers of the Press Council of India (PCI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Press Council of India has been empowered in regard to hearing of criminal and defamation cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the rights and jobs assigned to the Press Council of India at present;

(f) whether the number of complaints against PCI have increased recently due to leveling offalse allegations in the news appearing in various newspapers; and

(g) if so, the effective measures taken by the Government to ensure action against such persons involved in publishing false and baseless news?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLYTO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.440 FOR ANSWER O
19TH DECEMBER 2002 REGARDING `EXPANSION OF POWERS OF PCI`.

(a) & (b): A proposal received from the Press Council of India (PCI) is under examination.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise

(e) The powers of Press Council of India, set up to preserve the freedom of the press and tomaintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India, are as laid out inter-alia in Sections 14, 15 and 16 of the Press Council Act, 1978, and its functions as in Section 13 of the same Act.

(f) & (g): No such complaint against PCI has been received.